

Everett Historical Commission

Meeting Summary

March 22, 2022

Commissioners

Amelia Hieb, Chair
Arnold Morrison, Vice Chair
Steve Fox
Patrick Hall
Andrea Tucker
Madison Vazquez
Collin Palen
Theresa Gemmer
Ashli Bush

Staff

Alex Byrd
Becky McCrary

Guest

Dan Eernisse
Ismail Mohammad

The meeting convened at 6:30 pm with a roll call of Commissioners.

Acceptance of Agenda

Chair Hieb suggested that the commission assess where they are in terms of time prior to working on updating the 1987 Rules of Procedure (Item 8), as this item alone can take up a large amount of time and there are other significant items on the agenda. Commissioner Vazquez made a motion to accept the agenda and Commissioner Hall seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Summary

The meeting summary for the prior Historical Commission meeting held on February 22, 2022, was reviewed. A motion to approve the meeting summary was made by Chair Hieb, seconded by Commissioner Vazquez, and approved unanimously.

Citizen comments (for items not on tonight's agenda)

There were no citizen comments for items not on the agenda.

1011 Grand Ave Design Review

The commission conducted a design review of a proposed, approximately 482 square foot, two-story addition to an existing single-family residence at 1011 Grand Ave. The existing residence is a contributing structure in the Rucker Grand Historic Overlay. Staff recommended the Historical Commission review the proposed design of the addition, using the Neighborhood Conservation Guidelines and Historic Overlay Zone Standards, and provide a recommendation of approval to the Planning Director. The applicant and property owners gave a brief presentation of the project. One citizen comment was received from Ismail Mohammad. He asked about the grilles incorporated in the design of the existing and proposed porch. He stated that it's excellent that the proposed porch will incorporate this design element to match the architecture of the existing residence.

The commission discussed the project and made a recommendation of approval to the Planning Director. Commissioner Tucker made a motion to make a recommendation of approval to the Planning Director and Commissioner Hall seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Signage discussion with Dan Eernisse (Economic Development Division)

Dan Eernisse, the City's Economic Development Director, attended the meeting to discuss potential highway signage opportunities with the Historical Commission. The commission expressed their interest in pursuing a historic district sign on I-5, specifically a sign for the Hewitt Avenue National Register District. The commission is looking for direction on how to start the conversation with WSDOT and the City and what the next steps are. Dan Eernisse is going to reach out to WSDOT and report back to staff and the commission.

Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Becky McCrary, Long Range Planning Manager, and Alex Byrd, staff liaison, gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update that is now underway. In addition to providing an overview of the project, staff explained that the Historical Commission will be involved in terms of the historical resources and preservation that exists in the comprehensive plan. The commission also had the opportunity to ask staff questions about the project. The scoping comment period ends on March 25th, 2022, and the commission was encouraged to submit any comments they may have, not only during the scoping period, but throughout the entire process.

Continue updating 1987 Historical Commission Rules of Procedure

This item was postponed to the April 26th meeting agenda due to time constraints.

2022 Work Plan Update

The commission reviewed the 2022 Work Plan table. It was noted that progress has been made on the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and freeway signage for the National Historic District. The commission discussed the Everett register plaques and agreed that more research is needed, as staff and the commission are not clear on the process. Staff agreed to help with this item.

Next Meeting (date and subject)

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6:30pm.

Staff and Commissioner Comments

Vice Chair Morrison revisited a comment he made at the February 22nd meeting regarding design reviews. He clarified what he meant by the comment and stated the Commission should look at design reviews more objectively and data driven, than subjectively. He noted this can be difficult to do when conducting design reviews. Commissioner Hall reiterated the importance of using objective guidelines.

Commissioner Palen announced that as part of the Downtown Everett Association's Design Committee, he was approved for a grant to bring in a masonry expert to host a walking tour of downtown Everett. The purpose is to showcase the existing brick buildings and educate the public and business owners on how to maintain and take care of brick buildings. Commissioner Tucker announced that Historic Everett has a walking tour on April 10th downtown on Colby Avenue at 2:00pm.

Staff noted that all Commissioner's confirmed they completed the Open Public Meetings Act training. Staff confirmed that Commissioner Gemmer and Commissioner Bush will now be permanent members on the Historical Commission.

A recording of the full meeting is available upon request.